

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04670 221232Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 125282

O R 221220Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5338

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4670

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, ET

SUBJ: CISCO II

REF: A. STATE 277034; B. DAMASCUS 4650

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS SHOUI
TOLD EMBOFFS NOVEMBER 22 THAT OMAR ALEEM WAS AFFILIATED WITH
ELF OF AHMAD NASSIR BUT WAS NOT MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.
SHOUI SAID FURTHER THAT SINCE OUR LAST DISCUSSION (REF B)
HE HAD LEARNED THAT SYRIAN CONTACTS WITH REVOLUTIONARY MOVE-
MENTS, INCLUDING ELF WERE HANDLED THROUGH NATIONAL COMMAND
OF BAATH PARTY (FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPT), AND NOT THROUGH
SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE, THEREFORE, ADVISED THAT EMBASSY
GET IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE NATIONAL COMMAND OFFICE, IF
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECT WERE DESIRED. SHOUI ALSO
SAID THAT SYRIA RECOGNIZED ONLY ELF. PLF, HE SAID, WAS
ISLAMIC MOVEMENT SUPPORTED BY SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, AND UAE,
AND HAD NO REPRESENTATIVE IN SYRIA.

2. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, SHOUI ADVISED THAT HIS FRIEND MUNIR
AL-ABDALLAH (DAMASCUS 4654) PROBABLY HAD BETTER CONTACTS
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 04670 221232Z

WITH ERITREAN LEADERS THAN WOULD NATIONAL COMMAND.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THERE IS NOTHING FURTHER TO BE GAINED FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SUBJECT OF ARRANGING CONTACTS WITH ERITREAN LEADERS. OUR ALTERNATIVES NOW ARE TO WORK THROUGH BAATH PARTY AND/OR MUNIR AL-ABDALLAH, AND/OR TRY TO ESTABLISH A DIRECT CONTACT. WE NOW HAVE BEEN GIVEN TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR OMAR ALEEM, FOR ELF OFFICE IN DAMASCUS, AND FOR PLF OFFICE IN BEIRUT (313575). ALTERNATIVELY, MATTER COULD BE TAKEN UP WITH COS SHIHABI.
PELLETREAU

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